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Dr. Joshua Lederberg
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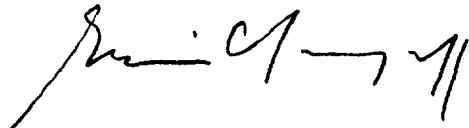
Dear Josh:

Recently in Ann Arbor I heard wonders about the various ways of getting protoplasts from E. coli of which you seem to be the prime perpetrator. We are very interested in trying out such methods in connection with our attempts to get bacterial nucleoproteins.

I understand some procedures made use of lysozyme (with or without versene), others of penicillin. If your method is not classified, could you give me the recipe, if possible so foolproof that even I could do it? For certain purposes we should like to isolate the protoplasts, for others this is not so important: what has been so nicely called a shockate would do. There are two difficulties to consider: (a) our work being preparatory we have to be able to handle large quantities of cells; (b) we are lousy bacteriologists, not even deserving of this proud name.

With kindest regards,

sincerely yours,



Erwin Chargaff:eb